



DAVID LEROY SWETMAN

June 22, 1956 - December 4, 2015

The world lost one of its brightest lights on December 4, 2015 when David LeRoy Swetman passed away peacefully in the arms of his beloved wife, Bonnie Hertlein-Swetman at their home in Smartsville, CA.

David was born June 22, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois, to the late Richard Lee Swetman and Ellen Alice Swetman. Living life full-throttle, sharing his truth, warmth and love freely, David's greatest joy was making those around him more comfortable, happy and aware on their own path. He delighted in laughter and mischief, and effortlessly shared his wisdom and compassion with those in need.

David's passion for connecting with others helped shape the chapters of his life. He co-founded the Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL when he was just 18 years old. He studied sociology and psychology, receiving Bachelor's degrees in both subjects in 1978, and his MA in Clinical Psychology in 1979. Later, as Chaplain at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, David's reach brought comfort to countless patients and their families, staff members and volunteers.

A lover of sports and the great outdoors, David enjoyed spending time fishing, gardening, working on their land or walking the property with Bonnie. He was an avid adventurer and spent a year of life travelling the world. He was also a

musician, playing guitar, singing and writing love songs.

In addition to his wife, David is survived by his brothers Richard (Susan) Swetman of Mt. Vernon, WA; Daniel (Robin) Swetman of McDonough, GA; and Dale Swetman of Hampshire, IL; sister Ellen Gibson (Brent) of Continental, OH; and aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

David provided an example of how to live life fully, as well as how to die consciously. He lovingly built a large extended family of friends, and his love will continue to shine on in the hearts of those who knew him. David's family would like to extend deepest gratitude to all those who encircled them during the past year of David's life with ALS.

A Celebration of Life will be held in early summer of 2016. In the meantime, memorial contributions may be made to: Compassionate Care ALS (CCALS); Hospice of the Foothills, and/or Spiritual Care Services at Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital through the SNMH Foundation.

Tribute Wall

DE

“ David and I were very good friends during his years of living in Dallas, TX in the early 80's. We had lots in common as we worked for the same food brokerage company for aime, but forged a frieship beyond that through music, sports, and other interests. By the time of David's passing, we had lost touch with o e another and I was in complete shock to find that he had left this earth in 2015. Out of the blue, around 2020, I bid an internet search to see if I could find him...that's when in disbelief, I discovered that David's life had been cut short due to ALS. He was everything his obituary stated...such a good, kind, and giving heart and soul. I pray that Bonnie and David's family are all doing well. We will meet again someday and laugh joyously together.

Doug Edwards - September 26, 2025 at 04:27 PM

MS

“ David was one my best friends in the world and he I saw a nice piece of it during one of the best years of my life. We've been friends no, brothers since the early 80's back in San Antonio. David, David Clowe (another dear and close brother since that time as well), suddenly got a hold of me and said they wanted to go around the world and asked me if I was in and I said you bet your sweet _ _ _ I'm in. It took a lot of planning and logistics but just a few short days after 30th birthday in September we flew out of LA to French Polynesia and the adventure began for a year. We went Fiji next and rember jumping islands on coconut boats. Bunji jumped and Rapelled in New Zealand. But we began to get interested in different directions and went our own ways but on the same airline ticket itinery to Sydney, SE Asia, India, Cairo, Greece, then back home. We all came back at different times but always knew we were together as brothers in our traveling spirits. Dave your smiling face showing up all of a sudden at my wedding made that day even more special. Visiting you and Bonnie up in Sacramento before we left CA. Was always a blast. I love you Bro and can't wait to see your smiling face again along side of our Savior Jesus Christ. And i'm sure where you are the salmon are always running and you don't have to worry about the bananas! Always until we meet again Marty Samudio

Marty Samudio - January 31, 2016 at 08:15 PM